

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3273

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USINT BAGHDAD

UNCLAS KUWAIT 2756

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNDP, EFIS, SEDU, ELAB, KU, XF

SUBJECT: REGIONAL TRAINING CENTER FOR FISHING

1. DRAFT AGREEMENT FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF GULF REGIONAL
CENTER TO TRAIN PERSONNEL IN COMMERCIAL FISHING SIGNED HERE
JUNE 17. KUWAIT, SAUDI ARABIA, IRAN, QATAR AND UAE ARE
SIGNATORIES TO AGREEMENT. OMAN AND IRAQ ALSO EXPECTED TO
SIGN ACCORDING TO UN OFFICIAL WHO IS FAMILIAR WITH THE
DISCUSSIONS, BUT NOT CERTAIN THAT BAHRAIN WILL. CENTER TO
BE LOCATED IN KUWAIT AND FINANCED FROM CONTRIBUTIONS OF
EACH PARTNER IN AGREEMENT. UNDP WILL PROBABLY HAVE
INPUT INTO PROGRAM AS WELL AS ROLE IN PROVIDING PERSONNEL
FOR TRAINING. CENTER WILL CONCENTRATE STRICTLY ON TECHNICAL
ASPECTS OF COMMERCIAL FISHING, HANDLING OF EQUIPMENT, ETC.

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BROADER PROBLEMS SUCH AS DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF

RESOURCES, DISTRIBUTION AND MARKETING WILL BE HANDLED BY FISHING RESOURCES SURVEY AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER TO BE LOCATED IN DOHA.

2. NUMBER OF TRAINEES FOR CENTER IN KUWAIT HAS NOT RPT NOT BEEN ESTABLISHED. UN OFFICIAL WAS SKEPTICAL THAT GOVERNMENTS HAD GIVEN MUCH THOUGHT TO IDENTIFYING POTENTIAL TRAINEES. HE NOTED BAHRAIN HAD NOT RPT NOT SIGNED AGREEMENT TO PARTICIPATE AND INDICATED BAHRAINIS MORE REALISTIC IN NOTING THEY HAD NO CANDIDATES AVAILABLE. KUWAIT'S REPRESENTATIVES IN THE CENTER WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE NON-KUWAITIS SINCE KUWAITI CITIZENS DO NOT COMPETE FOR THIS TYPE OF WORK. CENTER WILL TRAIN FISHING CAPTAINS, ASSISTANT CAPTAINS, MECHANICS, ETC. THE LANGUAGES OF TRAINING WILL BE ENGLISH AND ARABIC.

3. LOCAL UNDP DEPUTY RESREP FEELS AGREEMENT ON TRAINING CENTER IGNORES CERTAIN IMPORTANT QUESTIONS SUCH AS: (A) WITH COUNTRIES LIKE KUWAIT FACING LABOR SHORTAGE, WHERE WILL TRAINEES COME FROM? (B) WILL PROMOTION OF LARGE SCALE COMMERCIAL FISHING HAVE DAMAGING EFFECT ON NUMEROUS INDIVIDUAL FISHERMAN WHO PLY GULF WATERS IN SMALL BOATS? (C) IS ENOUGH CONCERN GIVEN TO LARGER QUESTIONS SUCH AS POLLUTION OF GULF WATERS?

6. COMMENT: APPARENTLY CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS MANAGED TO AVOID PROBLEM OF NAMING THAT BODY OF WATER WHERE THEY PLAN TO DO THEIR FISHING. NO REFERENCES MADE TO ARABIAN/PERSIAN GULF. CONFERENCE HELD UNDER UN AUSPICES AND USED WORDS "REGIONAL" AND "SUB-REGIONAL" WHENEVER GEOGRAPHY WAS IN QUESTION.
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